

Centralized Community Center of Ramsey



Prepared by

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Students in ARCH 3250: Community Design and Public Interest Architecture

Instructor: James Wheeler, College of Design

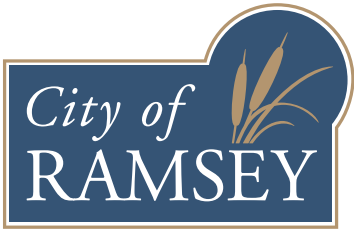
and

LA 3002: Informants of Creating Landscape Space

Instructors: Jessica Rossi-Mastracci and Joe Favour, College of Design

Prepared in Collaboration with

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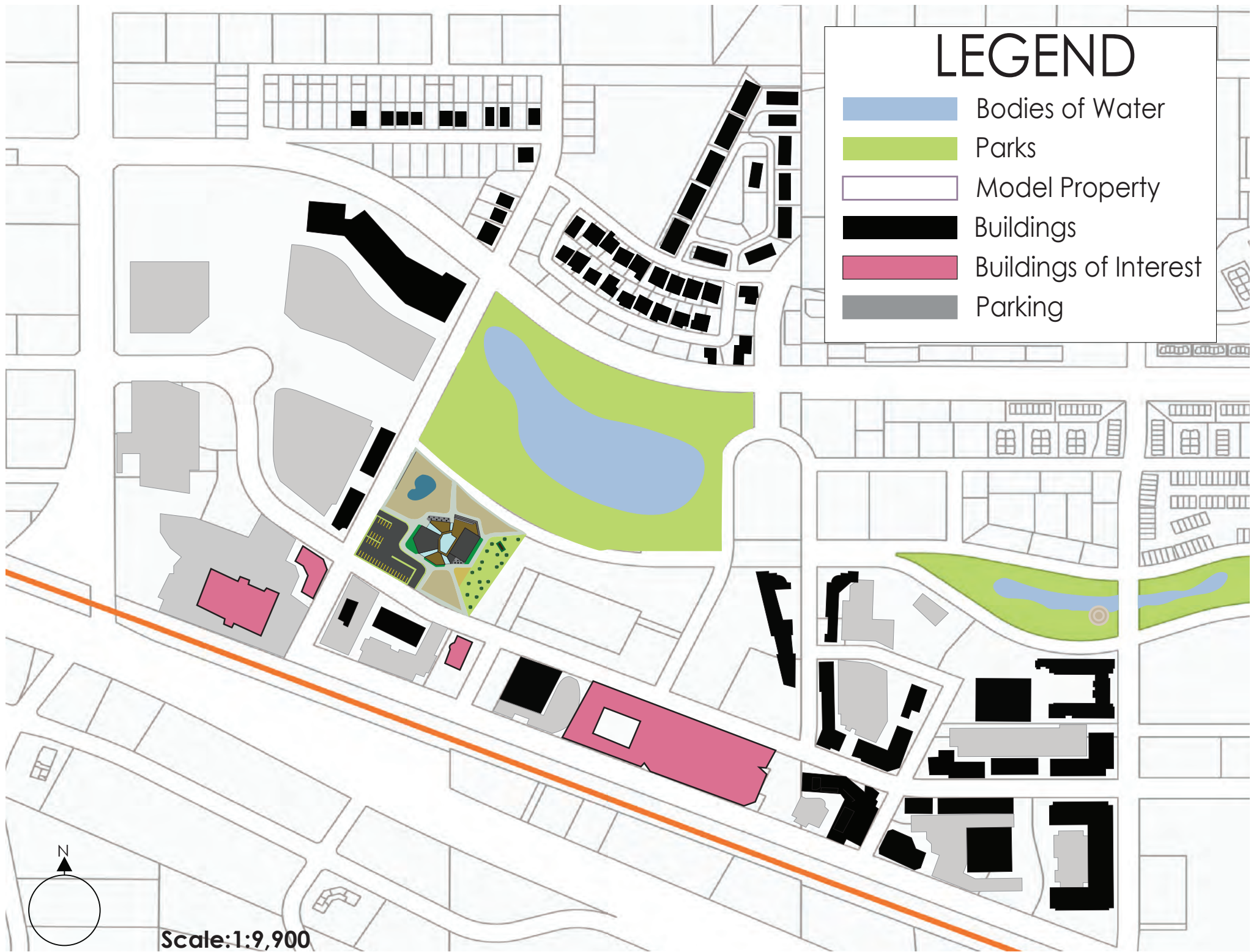
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Scope of Work

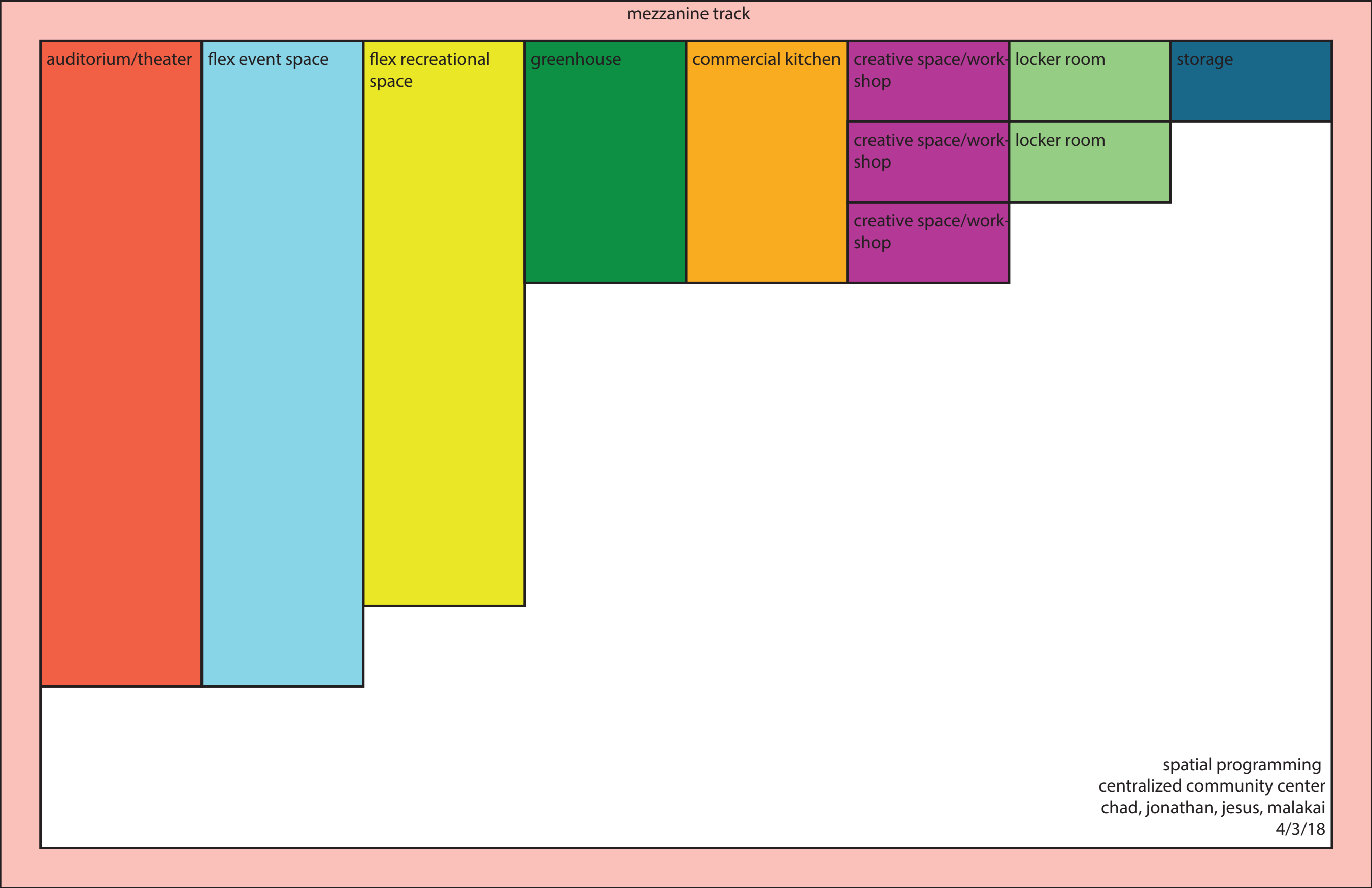
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| <p>Statement of Intent:</p> <p>To unify the city of Ramsey by designing an attractive, “self-promoting” community center. We hope to create a concept that first draws people in, using contextually-informed circulation and an elegant but unpretentious/inviting aesthetic, and then allow them to mold their own ideal community center experience using flexible, “Ramsey-specific” programming and fundamentally pleasant interior spaces.</p> <p>Our goal is to build a community center in Ramsey, creating a centralized landmark that unites the community and filters into flexible program-driven spaces.</p> <p>Our goal is to build a landmark community center that facilitates:</p> <p>To unify the COR through a visually inviting community center that facilitates intersection.</p> <p>To create a community center concept that is attractive and visually inviting.</p> <p>To unify the city of Ramsey by creating an attractive, inviting building that utilizes flexible programming and caters specifically to Ramsey’s citizens and the community at large.</p> <p>Introduction:</p> <p>The city of Ramsey is located about 25 miles NNW of Minneapolis. It is a part of Anoka County, and borders the Mississippi River on its Southern edge. The city had a population of 23,688 in the 2010 Census. It occupies roughly 30 square miles.</p> <p>This project’s aim is to design a centralized community center for Ramsey as a part of the Resilient Communities Project. In doing this, our group’s specific focus will be to build community via the use of flexible, sensi-ble programming. While it is currently a small, semi-suburban town, Ramsey is growing steadily, and in building this community center, the city hopes to become actively involved in that growth, rather than trying to accommodate it after the fact.</p> | <p>Objectives:</p> <p><i>Context</i></p> <p><i>“Utilize input from multiple stakeholders to create a composite vision for the future of Ramsey and the community center”</i></p> <p>While civil servants can definitely provide valuable feedback, it’s important to consider that in the same way our vision as designers may not always align with the vision of the client, the vision of one client may not necessarily align with the vision of the stakeholders as a whole. To address this, we’d like to be certain that we get input from as many stakeholders as possible.</p> <p><i>Create activity-based programming that caters specifically to Ramsey’s citizens - both current and future</i></p> <p>Recent demographic data shows that nearly 50% of Ramsey’s current population will be over the age of 45 in 10 years. As such, it might be wise to develop programming for elderly people, or those in retirement. Alternatively, perhaps Ramsey’s residents would like the City to reinvent itself as a desirable place to raise a family, or a nesting area for young professionals. With both in mind, it will be important to design amenities that are attractive to Ramsey’s current and possible future residents.</p> <p><i>Prioritize physical access to the community center using public transit and the emerging COR greenway</i></p> <p>A major part of modernizing the City of Ramsey and preparing for future growth will be integrating public transit into the infrastructure planned for the city. Making the community center more accessible for people who don’t want to or are unable to drive (this sector may be larger due to the growing population of elderly) is sure to increase traffic to the community center in the long run.</p> <p><i>Develop an aesthetic that fosters a sense of community identity through a focus on features that are “native” to the City of Ramsey</i></p> <p>Rapid growth can transform the “identity” of a city in positive or negative ways. This project will focus on emphasizing sources of community pride, such as utilizing work from local artists. Also, using the communication with stakeholders mentioned above, other ideas will be identified and incorporated where possible.</p> | <p>Constraints:</p> <p><i>Striking a balance between our vision - as designers - for the community center and the vision(s) of Ramsey’s stakeholders</i></p> <p>The first half of the semester presented a major challenge in terms of interpreting the feedback we got from Mark (who was the only stakeholder we communicated with) into something that respects his concerns but also incorporates the elements that we, as designers, think are essential for the communi-ty center.</p> <p><i>Working within the physical and financial confines of a publicly-funded project</i></p> <p>Financial limitations are especially important to consider in a community-fund-project. The extent to which the center benefits the community could be limited by overuse or misuse of funds which (presumably) come from taxpayers in that community. Additionally, there may be issues regarding the expectations of the city in terms of the community center’s designated site, physical size/square footage, and aesthetics.</p> <p><i>Conflicts resulting from working in close collaboration with outside entities</i></p> <p>This constraint refers specifically to the possibility that a partnership with a private entity, such as a gym, will occur, which would provide more potential for contention.</p> |
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Context

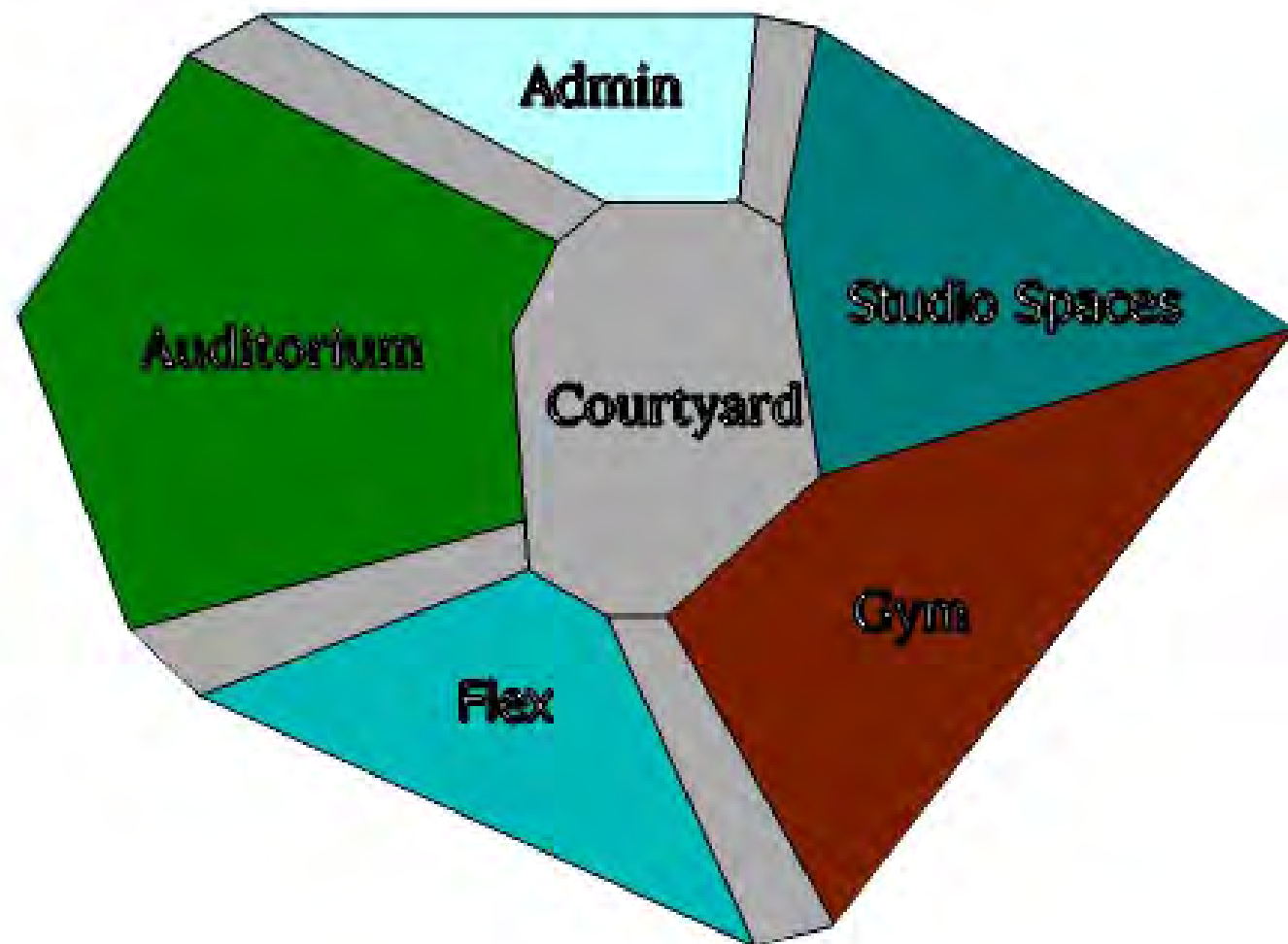
Before beginning designing the Community Center we explored nearby points of interest. We wanted to avoid competition with local businesses so context helped inform our decision. We found a local Grocery store kitty corner to our site as well as a fitness center. Additionally, there is a daycare across the street.



Program



Program



Auditorium
Seating
Stage
Backstage
Bathrooms
Entryway

Flex space
Open
Easily partioned

Gym
Locker rooms
Basketball Court
Track
Equipement storage

Studio Spaces
Communal art area
Desks

Administrative
Offices

Courtyard
Seating
Fireplace
Garden

Precedents

The community pavilion at Jintao village is orientated around a central courtyard. The courtyard is created by the trapezoidal spaces of the building itself. Each trapezoid space has a pitched roof angled inwards towards the courtyard. We want to imitate the courtyard space, with our programming spaces radiating out from the central space. This idea also draws from the COR logo: multiple outside elements radiating around a central space. Finally, we want to incorporate a pitched roof to capture the rainwater and create gardens and or green spaces within the building.

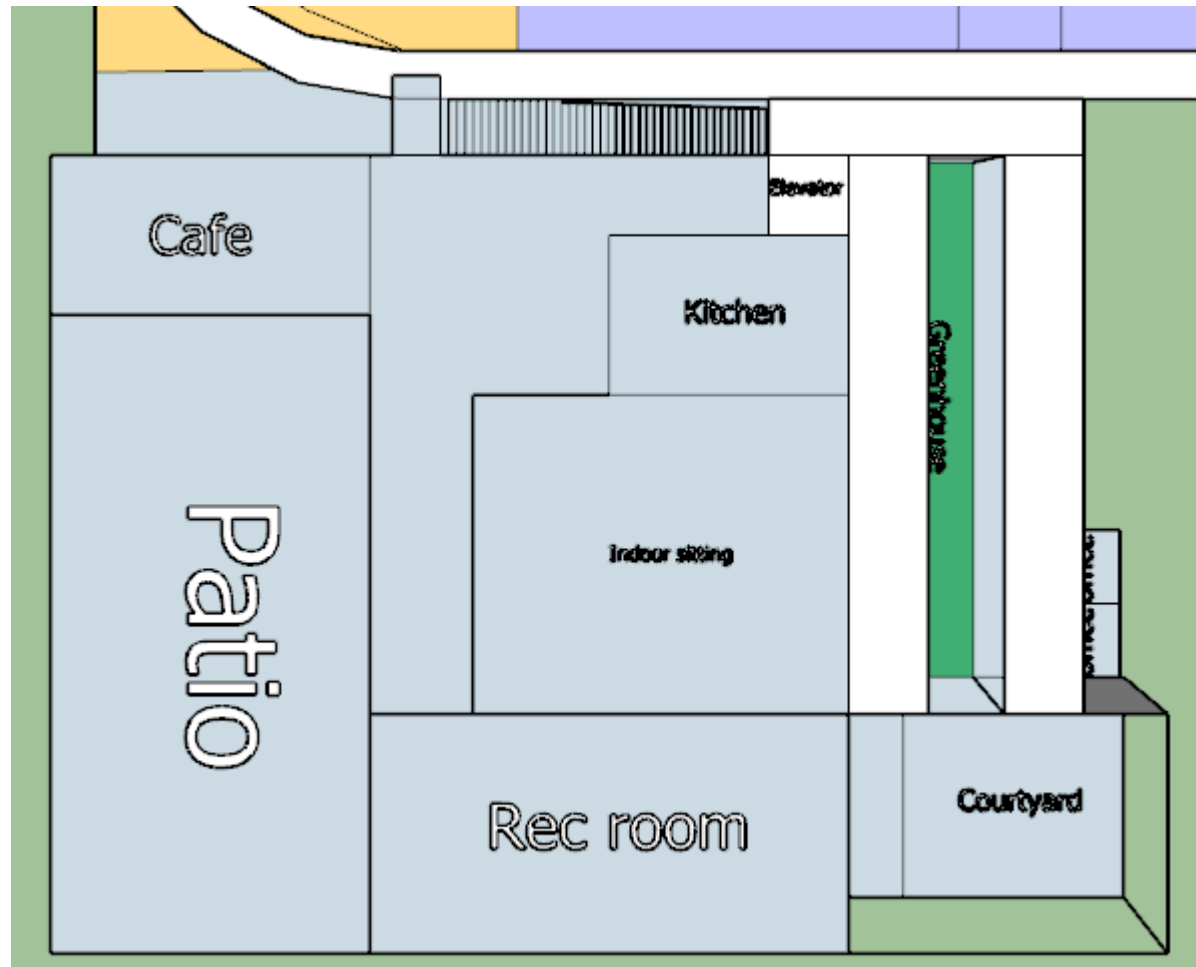


The Bell Museum in St. Paul integrates the building with its nearby landscape. We aspired to connect the native wetlands into our building site as well and took inspiration from the landscape work done here.

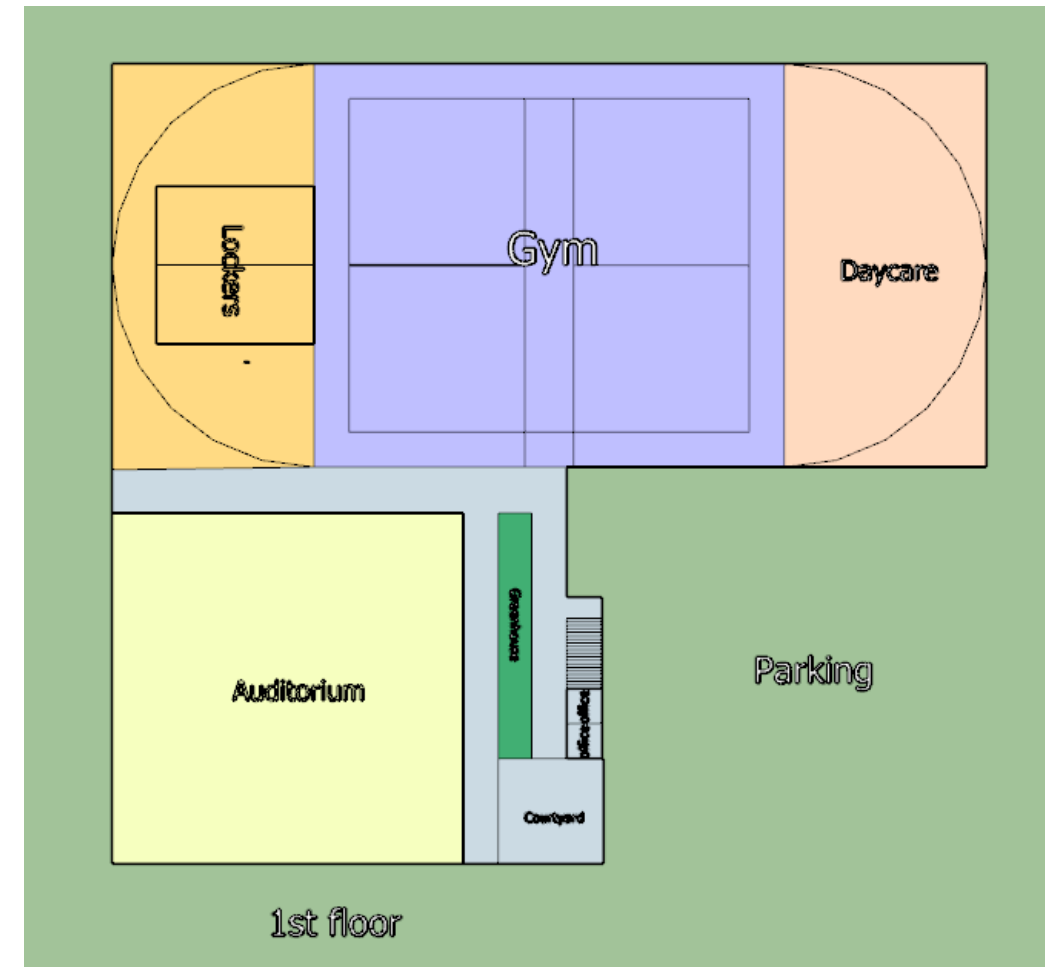


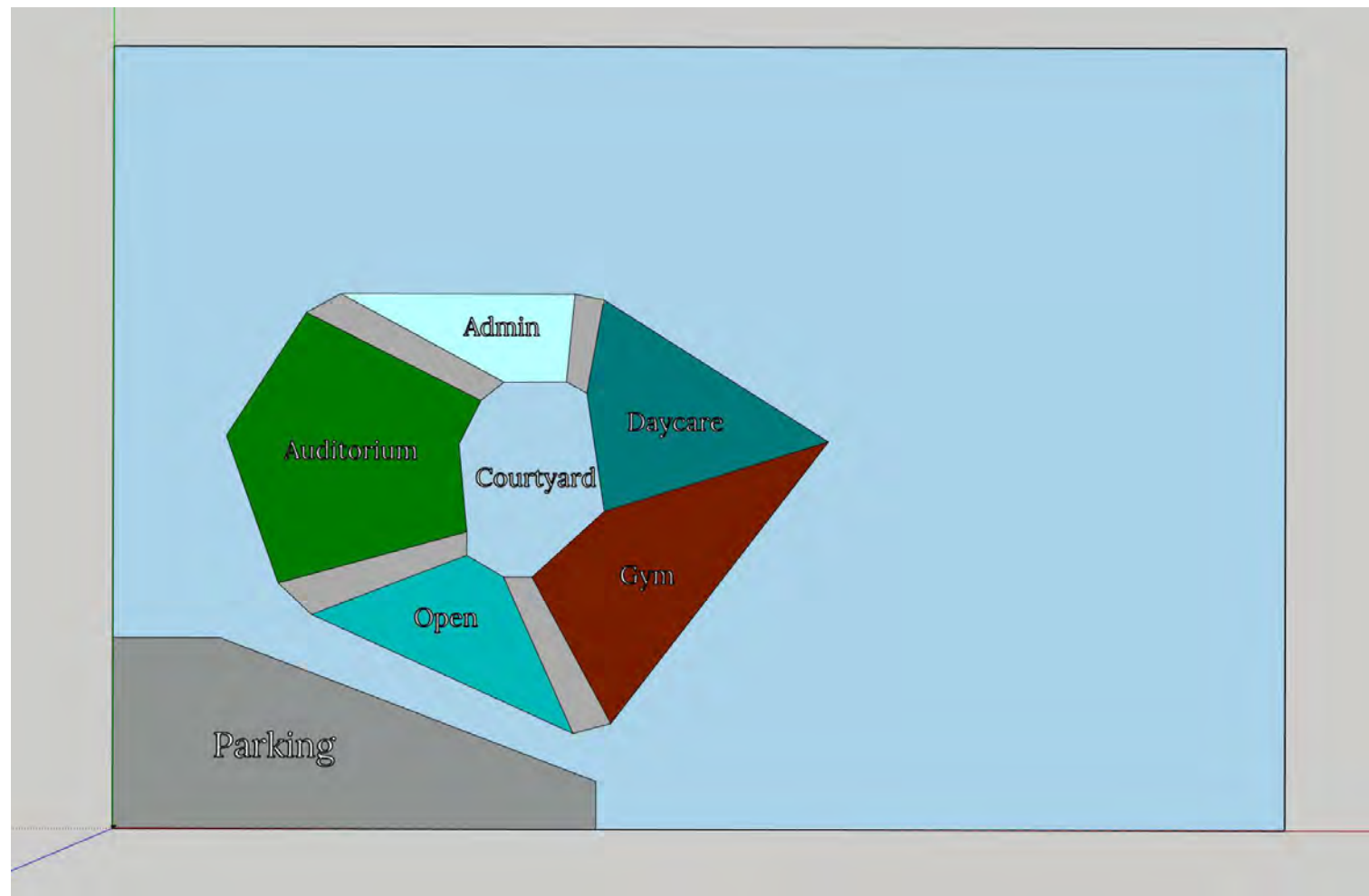
The COR logo of Ramsey also inspired our design. We like how the “O” has buildings and spaces radiating out from it. This helped us decide on a central courtyard space with rooms radiating out from it.

Sketches

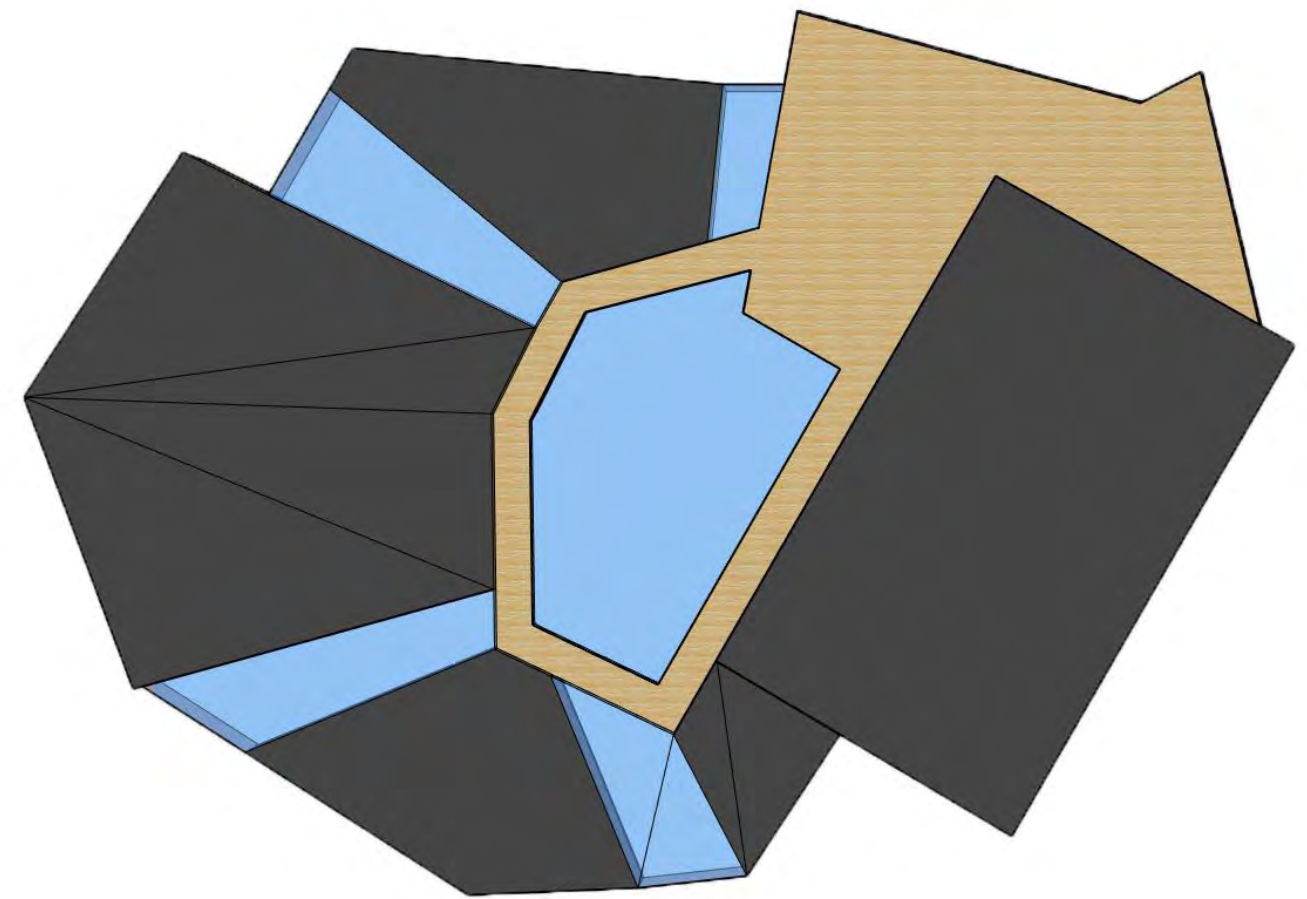


Our first design sketches were solely based on program. We fit all the puzzle pieces together to create a building. After some talking we realized this was not the way to go about it because there were many other aspects to consider. Ultimately we started over from scratch and didn't keep these initial plans.



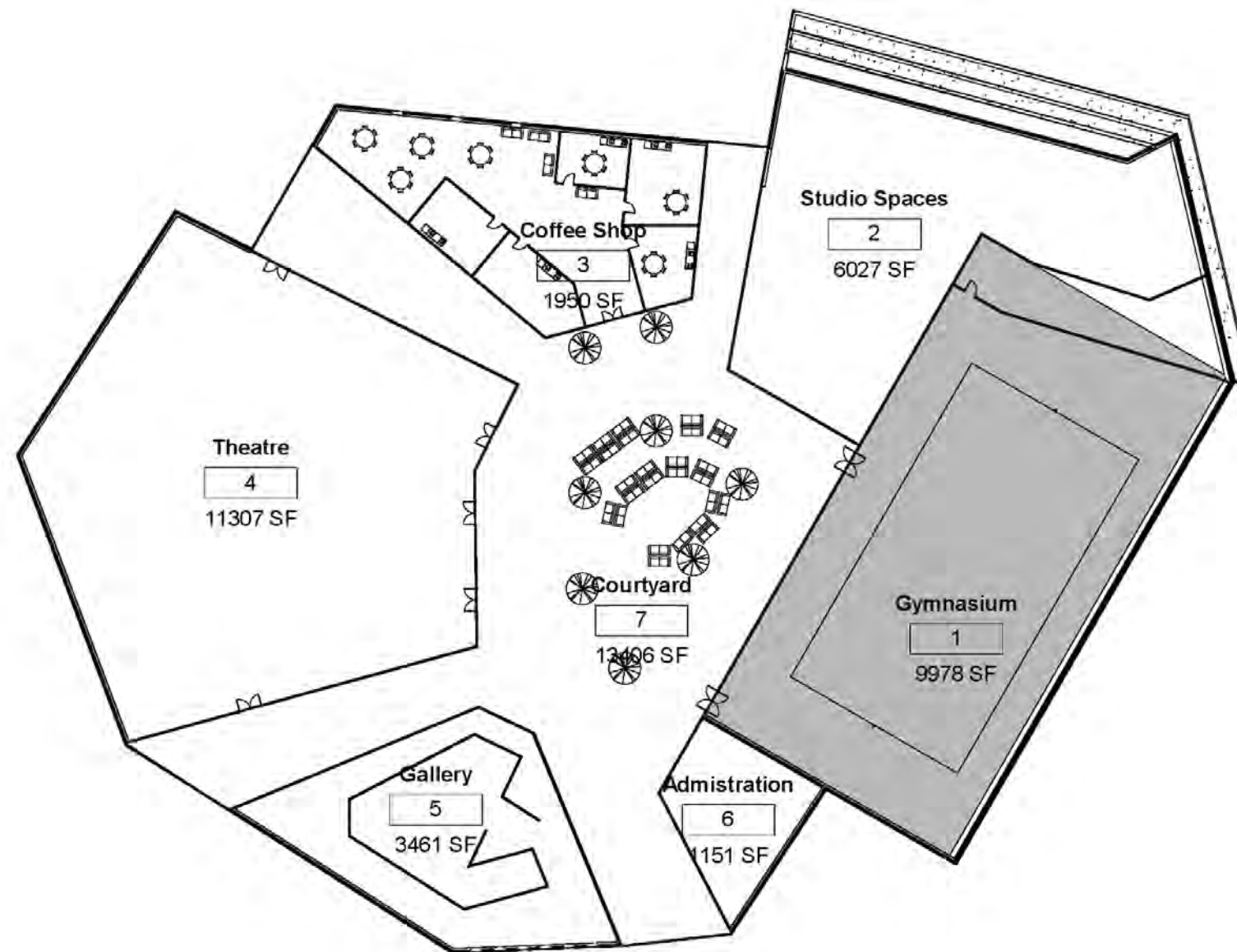


Our first legitimate design plan was a circular shape with a central courtyard and programed spaces branching out from the center.

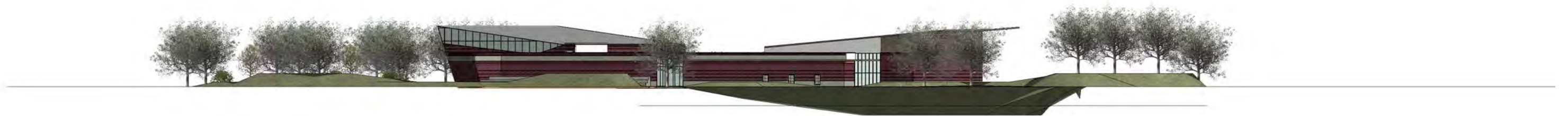


We moved forward with the courtyard idea and revised it to come up with our final model. It still incorporates the same elements: a central courtyard with spaces branching out from it, however we added some variety to the shapes and sizes of the rooms to give more visual interest. In addition we considered view sheds for window placing as well as for the second level outdoor patio spaces.

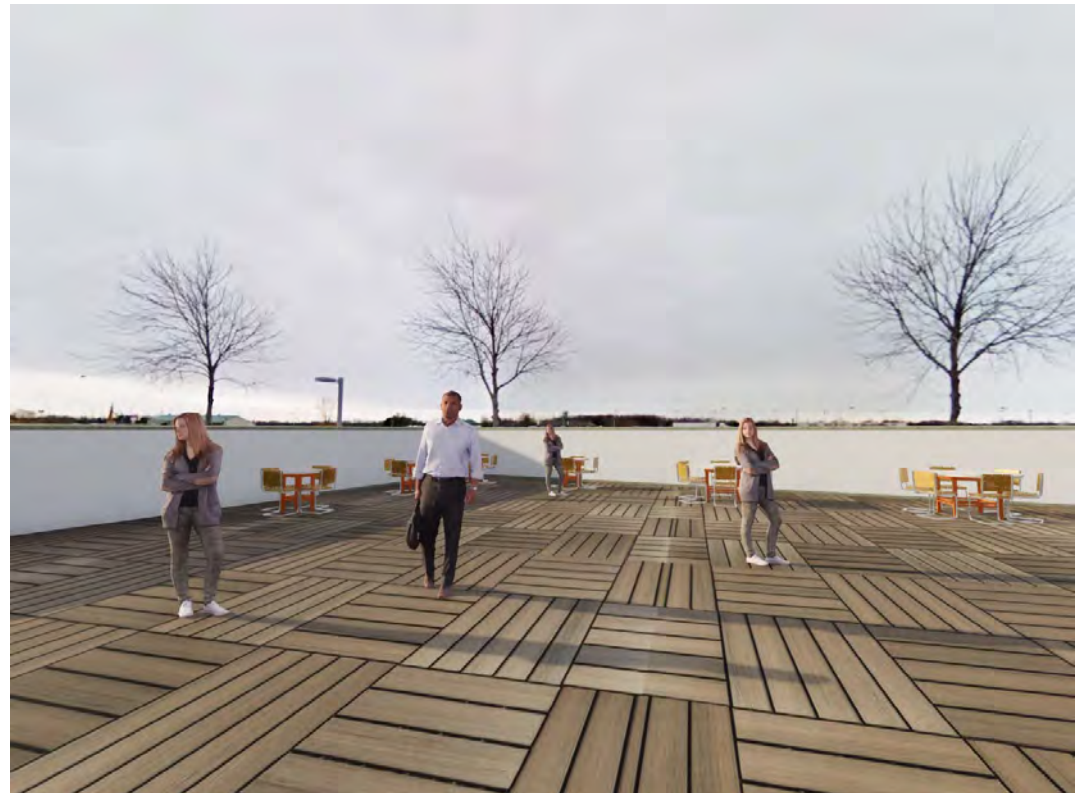
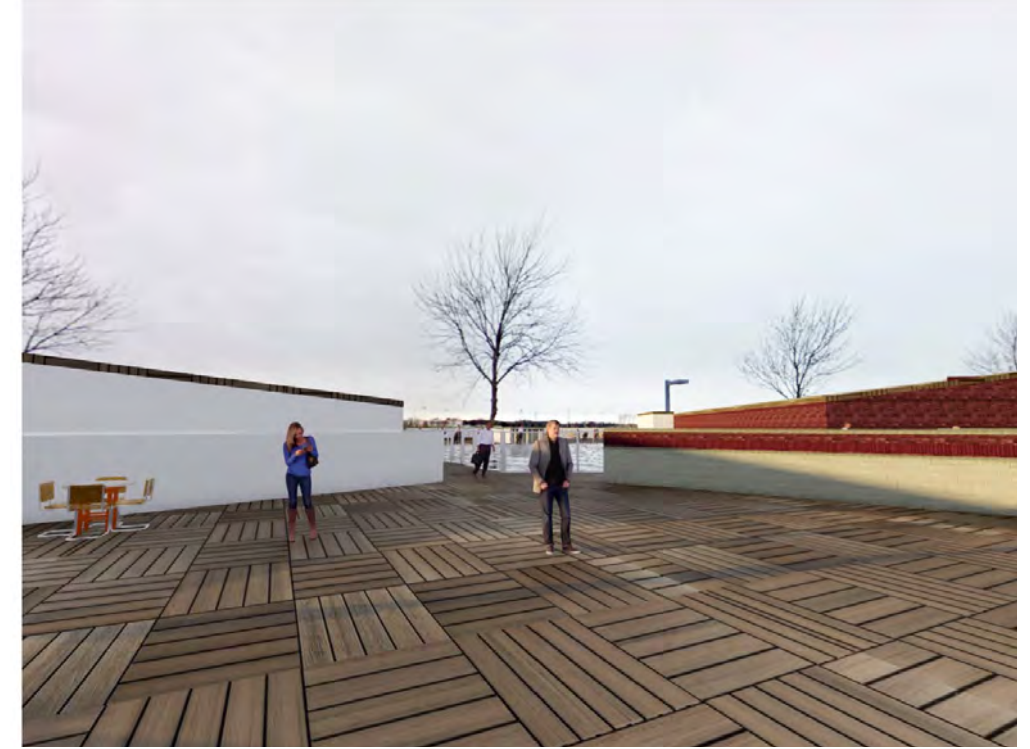
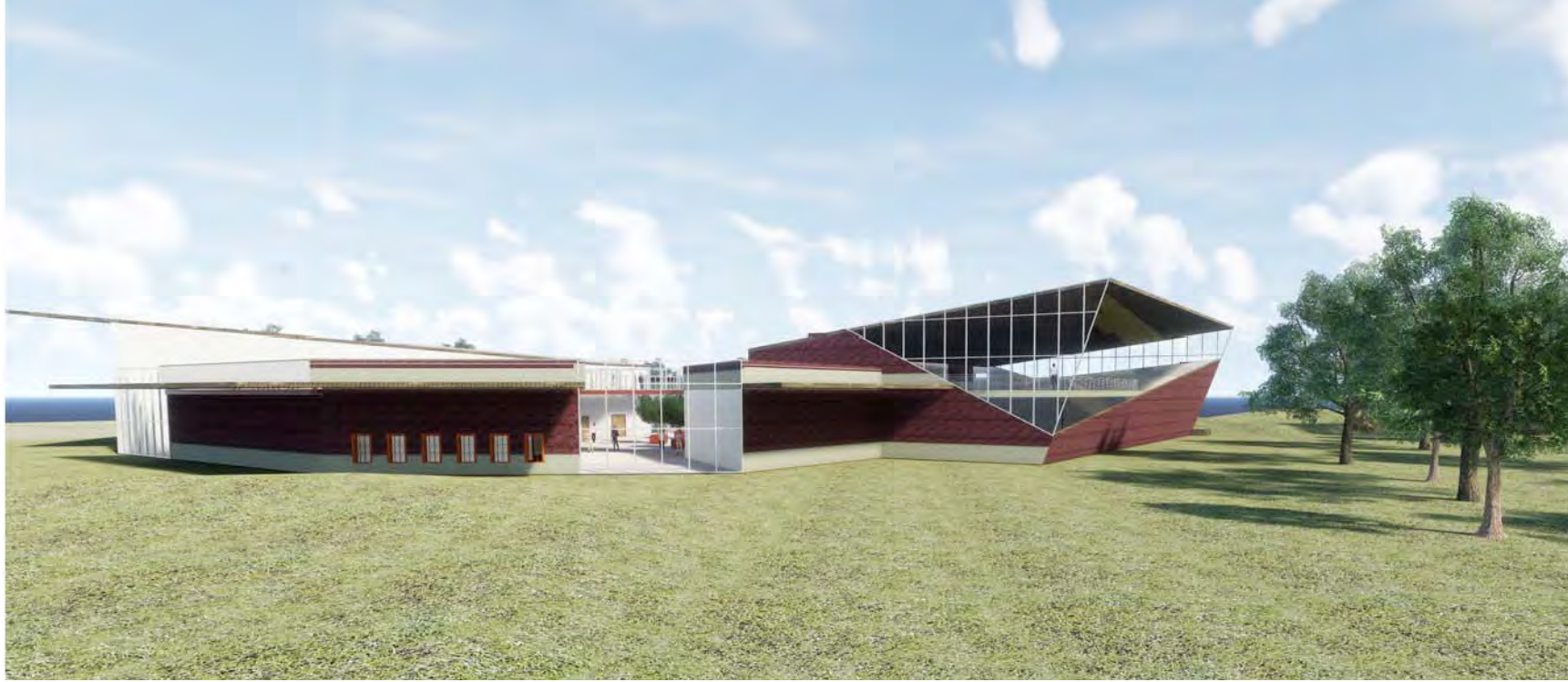
Final building plan

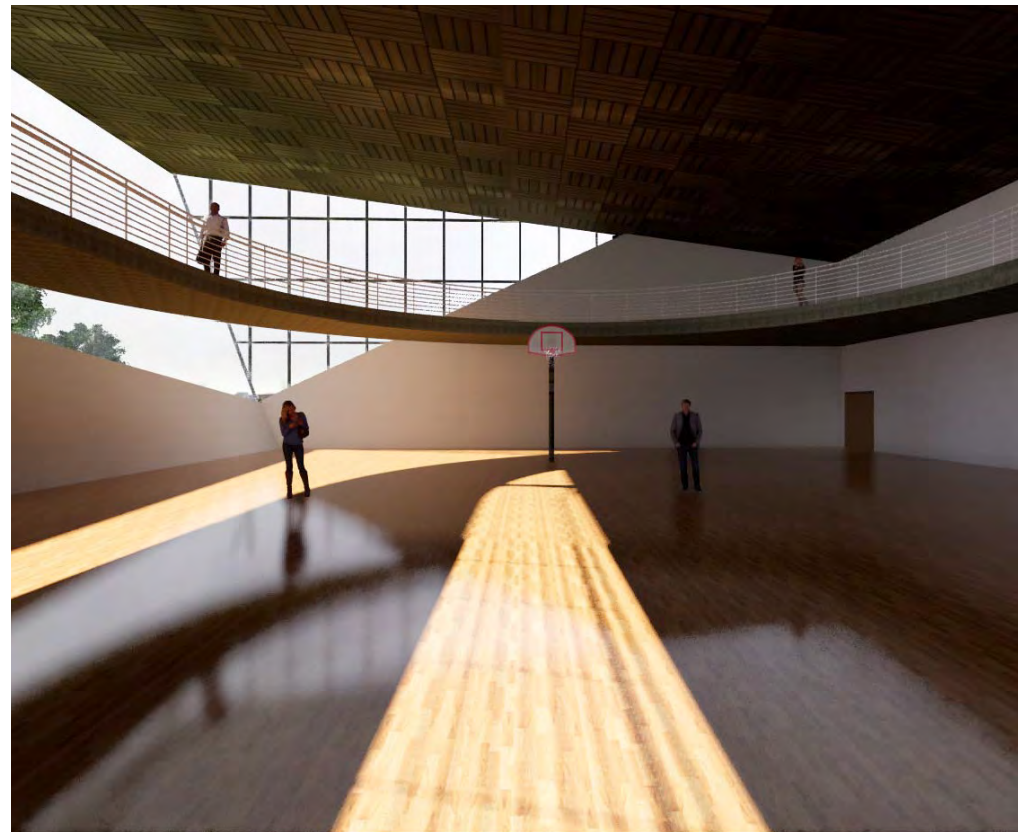
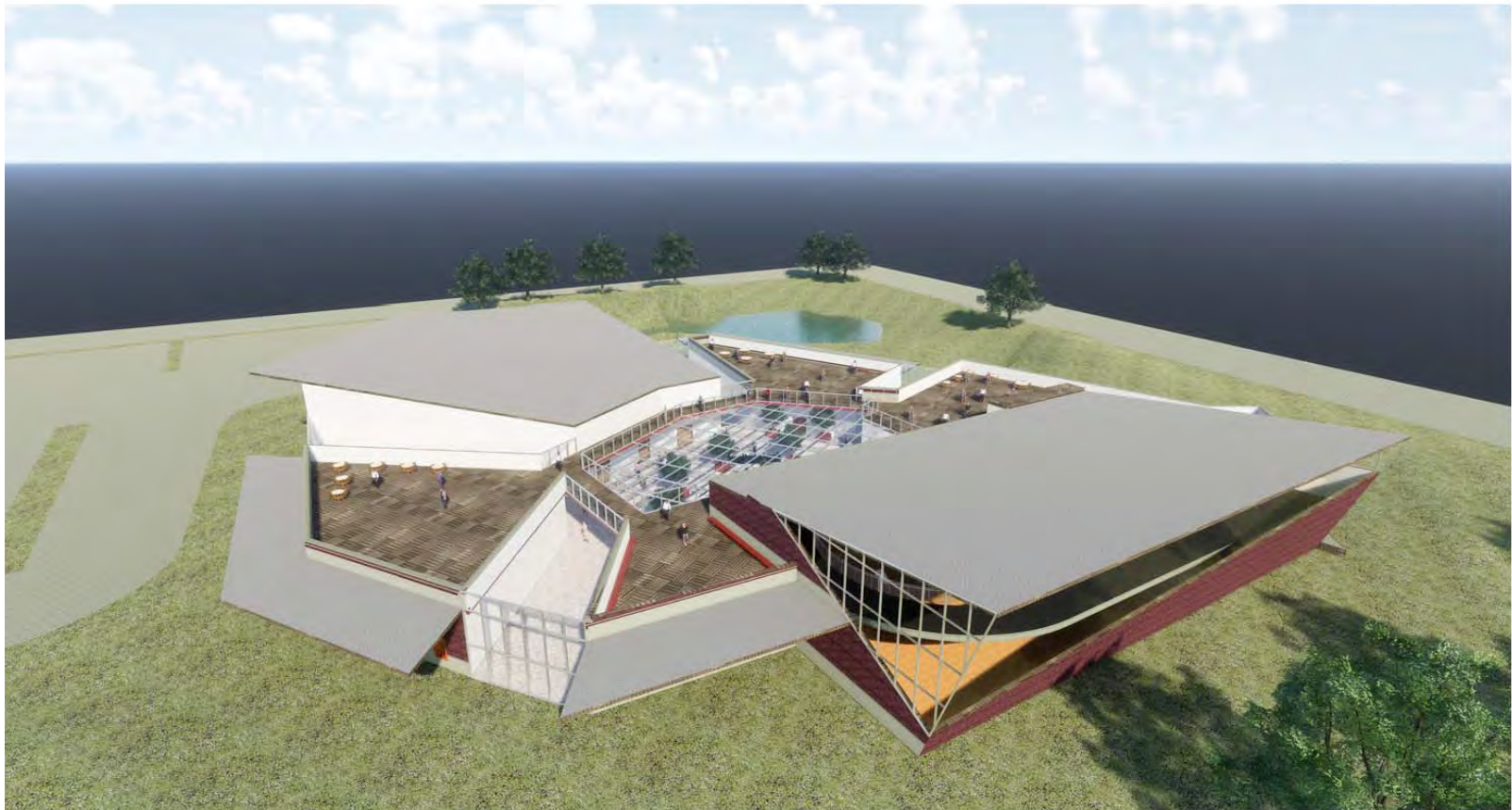


Sections



Renderings





Model photos

